



"NINE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 1990s"

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We resolve to uphold standards of integrity worthy of respect by all.

We resolve to invest our resources with farsighted, responsible care.

We resolve to have a worker ready for every job and a job ready for every worker.

We resolve to inspire and require every student and school to press harder for higher achievement.

We resolve to pass on to the next generation a cleaner, greener world.

We resolve to give every life the healthiest start possible and most respectful later care.

We resolve to reinforce families as the preeminent source of care and values.

We resolve to take personal responsibility for our own lives and to show concern and respect for each other.



John Ashcroft

Governor of Missouri
January 9, 1990



"NINE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 1990s"

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS
BY
GOVERNOR JOHN ASHCROFT
JANUARY 9, 1990

Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President Pro Tem, distinguished state officials, members of the 85th General Assembly, my fellow Missourians. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you in service to the people.

On this same date in 1776, Thomas Paine issued his pamphlet, Common Sense. His words never have been more true than they are today: "We have it in our power to begin the world over again....The birthday of a new world is at hand...."

Since we gathered in these chambers a year ago, our world has quaked with change. Nations have reclaimed their freedom. Humanity is courageously claiming a future of bright new hope.

With this new decade, Missourians will participate in a remarkable, new world of opportunity. This year will establish our direction for the decade now dawning.

State of State Address on Direction for the Decade

Our New Year's tradition is to challenge ourselves with resolutions for the year ahead. As Missourians, we must look beyond one year and commit ourselves to resolutions expressing a direction for a decade of change and achievement. Today, I propose nine resolutions to shape a vision and chart a direction for the 1990s. And I'll highlight, very briefly, some of the initiatives I recommend as first steps in pursuing these resolutions.

Resolution Number One: We resolve to free our streets and schools from fear of crime and drugs.

Crime may be with us always, but there was a time and there must be again when we can walk through our cities without a haunting fear of violence.

There was a time and there must be again when we can send our children to school without worry about enticement to drugs.

There was a time and there must be again when senior citizens feel no anxiety as strangers pass through their communities.

Lofty goals? Yes. But that's what they said of Marty Schottenheimer. When asked his goal for the 4-11-1 Kansas City Chiefs, the coach said it was to win the Super Bowl. He set his goal at the top.

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Well, the Chiefs won't be in this year's Super Bowl. But by lifting expectations, Marty has lifted results. By the end of the season, the Chiefs were better than most play-off teams, causing others to marvel at their new direction. We likewise should strive to be a national leader in winning the fight against illegal drugs.

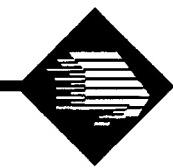
The recent trend of crime is dangerous and tragic. There may be many reasons, but a major explanation surely is found in the Justice Department's report that 50 to 80 percent of those arrested in major cities are testing positive for drug use — and that is among those who agree to be tested!

Now is the time to reverse this direction. To pursue our resolution to free young and old from fear, I've recommended strong proposals to destroy the crime-related grip of drugs. You've supported vital steps in the past. We can't afford to fail the challenge of this new, more intense attack.

We need to "just say no."

No to bail for dangerous drug pushers. No to the continued handcuffing of state troopers with inferior powers of search and seizure. No to laundering drug money — and no to gangs of thugs who terrorize our streets.

And let's be tough with the so-called "casual" users who have escaped the law. It's time for "no" to scholarships, driver's licenses, and



professional licenses for anyone from doctors and lawyers all the way to professional wrestlers if they fuel the drug machine by using illegal drugs.

Yes, some may say that we're too tough on drugs, but those who refuse to confront the user refuse to confront the problem. It's time to ask why white students report using drugs at twice the rate of blacks but enforcement action is taken in totally different proportions.

Saying no is important, but we must say yes as well. Yes to the additional prevention, education, and treatment that are the largest components of our investment in the war on drugs. Yes, especially to insistence on treatment for pregnant mothers to prevent tragic harm and permanent damage to their children. And yes to treatment of addicted youth and to positive, healthy activities for kids who otherwise might be lured to drugs.

While other states are freeing felons from overcrowded prisons, our 5000 new prison spaces in the past five years enable us to lock up dangerous criminals.

But our prisons are filling quickly. To preserve the public safety, my recommendations include start-up funding to build a new 200-bed drug-offender boot camp in Farmington and a new prison for women offenders. As we build for our own future needs, we can continue some recovery of

construction costs by the temporary renting of new cells.

These prisons and our \$15 million proposal for safe streets and schools will move us in the direction of our resolution for freedom from fear and drugs.

Resolution Number Two: We resolve to uphold standards of integrity worthy of respect by all.

The events in Europe and around the world remind us daily that effective government can be based only on the consent of the governed. We have a responsibility to keep the confidence of every Missourian in the integrity of Missouri state government. The savings and loan and HUD scandals in Washington have undermined public confidence in government at all levels.

As you know, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the General Assembly now are required to disclose some of our financial interests before acting on legislation. I propose that we expand both the number of government officials required to disclose their financial interests and the amount of information made public.

First, I believe the time has come to include in our financial disclosure laws all statewide elected officeholders and all department

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directors. Second, we should change the law so that required financial disclosures identify and categorize the amount of our financial assets as well as the sources of our income.

This type of full disclosure is the very best way to show the people of Missouri that our actions in government do not flow from our personal financial interests.

As we provide more information to Missourians, we should make it clear that in this government, public office may not be used for private gain. You and I already are prohibited from receiving compensation other than our salaries for attempting to influence the decisions of state agencies.

But, as you know, the law does not prohibit payments for appearances before state agencies in relation to government actions, such as permit applications. This loophole in the law may cause some citizens to believe that individuals in government are able to benefit personally — that is, to be paid privately — for doing for Missourians what they were elected to do in the first place.

This year, in this session, we should close this loophole. Representation in open, adversarial hearings before administrative law judges and hearing examiners should continue to be permissible.

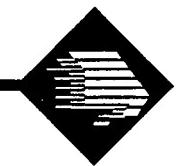
Another area of ethical standards that warrants your attention is the reporting of lobbying activities. I recommend that we require not only lobbyists but also their employers to tell the people of Missouri how much they spend to influence legislation and, above a certain minimum threshold, the amount they spend on each officeholder.

These strict new requirements should be coupled with tough enforcement measures. I propose that we create an ethics commission of independent citizens — one that contains neither legislators nor executive branch officials — to oversee compliance with our conflict-of-interest laws.

This commission should have the authority to refer violations for criminal prosecution. It should have separate, additional authority to ask the courts to find that a violation of the law has occurred. Courts then should impose sanctions, including forfeiture of office when appropriate.

Adoption of these proposals would bring Missouri law into closer compliance with the model conflict-of-interest statute of the National Conference of State Legislatures. The time for a new wave of ethics reform is now — before, not after, a major scandal.

If we don't take responsibility to put our own house in order, the voters will have reason to clean house on election day.



Resolution Number Three: We resolve to invest our resources with farsighted, responsible care.

Resources carry responsibility, and public funds are a special trust. Every dollar government spends is a dollar citizens cannot spend themselves. Those who believe that governments always invest more wisely than individuals should poll the traffic jams at the Berlin Wall.

Missouri taxpayers expect us to provide essential government services and invest the bulk of public funds in securing future progress. As in past years, I am recommending that we apply about two-thirds of new discretionary funding to education.

Infrastructure, along with education, provides the foundation for growth. Missourians stand squarely for expanding opportunity. In less than three years, the voters have given direct approval for better highways; improved local water, sewer, and pollution control projects; and reasonable passage of local bond issues.

We have done this simultaneously with unprecedented investments in college campuses. At the same time, federal courts have stripped hundreds of millions of dollars from our budget to reconstruct schools in St. Louis and Kansas City.

But this is only half the story. By avoiding the use of bonds for operating functions, our per capita state debt is 40 percent below the national median. We have refused to borrow from the next decade unless we were building for the next century. That is why we are one of the handful of states with the highest possible "double triple-A" bond rating.

We've poured a strong foundation on which to build a decade of growth. We need to continue working to get the most from our investment.

Our transportation needs are neither static nor uniform. The voters have approved a state highway plan that builds for the next century. Already, however, some regions are pointing to projects that need faster attention.

To recognize differences in needs across the state, I recommend legislation authorizing creation of special transportation districts and corporations for local option financing of highway and transportation projects. Let's not limit any community that faces a special opportunity or challenge.

We need to further capitalize our state infrastructure board, continue funding major equipment in our schools of engineering, support urban convention facilities, and capitalize our Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund. In addition, we must continue development of extensive earthquake preparedness plans immediately.

During the last decade, Missouri government allocated one dollar of every eight, totaling more than \$7 billion, for infrastructure development. Even in this year of modest growth, we must continue to build for the future.

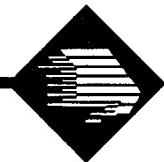
Let me take a moment to comment on the budget growth being called so lean this year. We see it as lean in the context of a budget that has grown from \$4 billion to \$8 billion in the course of a single decade.

The clamor of interests for bigger benefits and programs grows to a roar in years like this. But special interests should ask taxpaying families how many of their budgets have grown as fast. How many of them can satisfy all their wants every year? Good politics may require keeping every interest happy, but good government requires tough decisions.

You know that when long-term funding trends have been inadequate to support promising strategies to meet essential needs, I have called for increased revenue and we have met the challenge. That is not our circumstance now.

The budget I am presenting is moderate and balanced. It provides significant new funding for a number of our highest priorities.

While this funding will be important, it is no measure of success. When Missourians say "show me," they want to see results — what



we have done, not what we have spent. The only way to gauge results and progress is to know our destination so that we can measure the distance that remains from here to there. This tests the vision of leaders, and those whose vision looks only to some spending rank from one to fifty will surely fail.

Resolution Number Four: We resolve to have a worker ready for every job and a job ready for every worker.

We must continue our aggressive efforts to build new jobs in Missouri. At the same time, we must assure employers that a Missouri worker is a worker who can do the job.

Our Job Development Fund builds workers. Since its establishment in 1986, the program has funded the training of more than 32,000 Missourians in nearly 200 new and existing companies. We should expand it by using certain unemployment insurance contributions for worker training.

Our Learnfare program restores workers. Thanks to the Family Support Act of 1988 and your effectiveness in last summer's special session, we now can complete the structure to move Missourians from welfare to work.

We can also complete work you began last year to provide training for nurses and to

update our workers' compensation laws. I will work cooperatively with you in finalizing mutually acceptable legislation.

Exports are an increasingly important source of jobs. We should support the new Export Development Fund to provide loan guarantees for small Missouri firms exporting to international markets, and we should open the export development office to help Missouri firms realize their export potential.

We soon will open an office in Taiwan devoted to the promotion of Missouri agriculture and products.

Despite these economic expansions, our strongest marketing resource remains the well-educated, well-trained, and hard-working people of Missouri.

Resolution Number Five: We resolve to inspire and require every student and school to press harder for higher achievement.

The first step toward success in school is a child eager to learn. Children need to discover the thrill of learning with their families before they reach the schoolhouse door. You have understood this in supporting our nationally acclaimed Parents As Teachers program. I call on you to provide a \$2 million expansion to ensure that more Missouri



parents become their children's first and best teachers.



To maintain home and community support for learning after our students go off to school, we'll keep pressing the Missouri message that "Success in School is Homemade."

And when students struggle, we will let them know how much we care about their success. Julia Goldstein has shown us a way. Her program in University City to provide volunteer partners for struggling first graders is making a difference in students' behavior and academic achievement. In five years, her vision has spread from one school to our entire state — from one school principal to the Vice President of the United States. Julia is 90 years old this month, and she and her fellow volunteers set an example for all of us.



We want to help every Missouri student in need of special attention. We need legislation to expand our special education services for handicapped preschoolers. I renew my request that you require high schools to report each student who drops out.

The time has come to recognize that many of our students who are failing or dropping out won't succeed if we just offer them more of what hasn't been working. I support the proposal to build our network of 58 Area Vocational-Technical Schools into full-service

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daytime and evening Area Learning Centers to give these students, young and old, the opportunity to drop in — yes, drop back in to education and to study hard for their future and the future of our state.

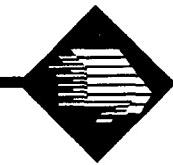
I believe all students deserve the best chance we can offer for maximum achievement.

That's why I support the simple concept of school choice. Just as no two students are alike, no two schools are alike. Families should be able to find the best fit instead of anchoring students to arbitrary boundaries.

Because family support for education is the strongest single determinant of whether a child will succeed or fail in school, we should give families some choice in selecting the public school with which they choose to be in partnership. Of course most students will want to go to the school that is closest to home, but for a significant minority of students, the chance to go to school where there is a special program available or close to a parent's place of work could be the difference between success and failure.

I'm pleased that a special committee of the House has made an interim study of this issue. While provisions to ensure racial equity, building capacity, and other technical safeguards are needed, I hope that you'll strongly consider proposals to expand dramatically the flexibility, choice, and participating role that we offer families.

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Wherever students go to school, expectations of achievement should be high. For too long, Missouri's system for classifying public schools has been indifferent to the level of student achievement. As long as we have seen the right number of books in the library and the right colors of chalk for the blackboard, we've given our triple A stamp. That won't be good enough for our students of the 1990s. We must join the world's interest in performance. We may continue to count the books, but what we really want to know is whether the students know what is in them. I hope you will support the Board of Education's plans to implement the performance-focused school classification system that Missouri's future demands.

The State Board also has made a valuable proposal to improve equity in funding our public schools. The plan provides a reasonable starting point for further efforts on this issue.

In addition to increased funding for Parents as Teachers and other education programs, I recommend a \$40 million General Revenue increase in funding for the School Foundation program to sustain our progress toward the excellence that we have pursued in recent years. This represents a 60 percent increase in School Foundation and Excellence funding during the past six years.

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The most important new commitments that need to be made in Missouri education are commitments of time and effort. The State Board of Education's recommendation of a 200-day school year by the year 2000 is the kind of commitment that will be demanded by the competitive world of the next century. We should make that commitment and others that reflect a seriousness of effort for which we are willing to be accountable. Only then will Missourians see a case for a new approach to levels of funding.

Higher competitive standards should extend to our college campuses as well. In November, I outlined to the governing boards of our public colleges and universities specific major challenges to which we must commit ourselves if we are to meet the rising demands for quality in higher education. We must move ahead with definite planning and determined action. For the coming year, I am recommending an almost \$23.5 million increase in funding for our four-year colleges and universities. This will provide a minimum 4 percent increase in state support for each institution and overall growth of 68 percent in state support since 1985, more than eight times the percentage growth in enrollment. In recognition of higher enrollment increases, I am recommending a 5 percent increase in state funding for community colleges.

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At the same time, I am working with the Speaker and President Pro Tem to establish a commission to study the readiness of higher education in Missouri to meet the expanding needs of our people.

While this study is under way, I am recommending increased funding for student grants and recruitment of minority students.

Our education initiatives will keep Missouri education moving ahead, toward the higher standards of excellence demanded by a changing world.

Resolution Number Six: We resolve to pass on to the next generation a cleaner, greener world.

Missouri is blessed with an abundance of natural resources that imposes a responsibility of stewardship for our land, air, water, and wildlife.

Major steps already have been taken. From our earmarked parks and soils fund, practices have been put in place that will prevent the erosion of 48 million tons of topsoil. We have established one of the best parks and conservation systems in the nation and are continuing to protect special lands and opportunities for tomorrow's enjoyment.

Our tallest mountain, our highest waterfall — these must be preserved. Last year, this body

started a three-phase plan to expand Johnson's Shut-Ins. The legislature optioned these lands for future generations. This purchase should be completed.

Looking to future generations should lead us to consider our most basic needs. Water is among the first.

I am asking for funding to inventory surface and ground water that might lead to the creation of water resource protection districts in sensitive areas where regional problems call for regional solutions.

Protecting the quality of our water also is a long-term venture. We should begin by testing 3500 water systems and suppliers at least once a year to ensure that Missourians are safe from contaminated drinking water.

We must also work to prevent contamination by shoring up state monitoring of wastewater discharge.

Additionally, I favor extending our ban on the use of off-road vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles, in our streams and waterways, with exceptions for appropriate agricultural and law enforcement purposes.

I am asking that the consequences of illegal dumping be changed from civil damages to criminal penalties to make the risk to offenders heavier than the risk to our future generations.



We must face the fact that the lifestyle of the 1990s cannot continue indiscriminately to cover the Earth with newspapers, plastic wrappers, and automobile tires. Our landfills are fast becoming full. We cannot continue to stick our heads or our trash in the sand.

We need solid waste legislation to let counties and cities form planning regions to reduce the flow of waste, establish markets for recycled materials, and develop industries that recycle others' waste. I encourage the use of composting, recycling programs, and alternative products. I commend communities such as Columbia and Springfield that have undertaken curbside recycling programs. To promote programs such as these, I recommend providing new technical assistance to help develop alternatives to landfills.

For the sake of our children and ourselves, we must stop spoiling and squandering our God-given bounty.

Resolution Number Seven: We resolve to give every life the healthiest start possible and most respectful later care.

The death of an infant is an unsurpassed tragedy for parents and a great loss for all Missourians. All infants deserve not only life but healthy beginnings to reach their greatest

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possible opportunity. Infant mortality is too high in Missouri and across the nation. We must commit ourselves to building a stronger, more complete system of health services for infants and young children.

This year, we should extend prenatal care, child delivery, and other Medicaid services for children up to age six to bring new protection to more than 3000 women and nearly 20,000 additional children. We should stop the exodus of obstetricians leaving the Medicaid program by raising the payment for prenatal care and delivery.

We should guarantee that all Missouri newborns continue to be screened for the sickle cell trait.

With these and other steps, Missouri will begin the 1990s with a strong attack on the causes of infant mortality. To help design our next steps — and to focus public concern on this critical issue — I will convene a statewide conference on infant mortality this June.

While these efforts focus on the health of our newborn infants, we know that our most vulnerable babies are those who remain unborn.

You well know my own position for life and against abortion. My position will remain unchanged. The current epidemic of abortions makes the remorse and reproach of history only a matter of time in coming.

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Within the next week, I will announce my support for concepts that would enhance our capacity to protect unborn children.

Abortion is an issue that will not go away. It deserves action. It should not be dodged in deference to politics. The timeless truth is inscribed in the marble of our Senate chamber: "Nothing is politically right that is morally wrong."

For the care of older Missourians, I am recommending substantial new funding to extend nursing home coverage to more than 6500 additional older Missourians and to improve the quality of care provided by nursing homes and by in-home service agencies. Additionally, I am proposing enactment of the Long-Term Care Insurance Act to make in-home care more available while ensuring stronger consumer protection.

New protection for insurance consumers also should be extended by strengthening insolvency and licensing laws and by providing new staffing as well as a Consumer Advisory Board to speak up for consumers. I look forward to working with you in this area.

Resolution Number Eight: We resolve to reinforce families as the preeminent source of care and values.

The best human service is a job, and the best safety net is a strong, stable family. The family is the primary source to teach values in our society. As leaders, we need to be sensitive to opportunities that exist for us to strengthen and build families.

When problems arise in the family, we can either divide the family or find a strategy to keep it together. We must keep families together whenever possible. That's the belief behind our Families First program for mental health disorders, our Caring Communities project for troubled children, and our Family Treatment Initiative for families facing alcohol- and drug-related problems. We must continue appropriate funding for family preservation services.

There are times, though, when a family is not the kind of institution it should be. So often, young people do not receive the nurture and help they need from their families. Due to increasing drug busts, we have record numbers of young people being taken from their homes and families. In these cases, we need to mobilize foster families to provide the kind of setting these young people need for development and growth.



I recently visited some unsung everyday heroes in St. Louis and Kansas City who are meeting the need for more foster families in Missouri. The modest but immaculate residence of Mildred and Julius Davis in the heart of Kansas City has been home to more than 100 foster children during the last 17 years. Mildred and Julius truly are two of Missouri's finest citizens.

Government cannot be a family to children. But it can work to replace missing families. We must allocate funds to provide for increased foster care to assist loving foster parents like Mildred and Julius Davis.

Another danger to individuals, families, and society is pornography. In his revealing interview the night before his execution, mass murderer Ted Bundy told of the link between his obsession for pornography and his violent acts.

We must continue to adopt tough new legislation regarding the operation of so-called "adult entertainment establishments" and the cablecasting of obscenity. We must keep the pornography industry on the run, because pornography continues to destroy.

We must be sensitive to values that build families and to the values that families build. They are the ultimate reservoir of strength in our state and our nation.

Resolution Number Nine: We
resolve to take personal
responsibility for our own lives and
to show concern and respect for
each other.

Perhaps this ninth resolution takes us back to where the first one began. When we have respect and concern for ourselves and others, drugs and crime will be problems on the wane. But today, not only the volume but the nature of our problems show our need to reverse direction. Crimes of hate and actions of scorn infect us broadly.

We anxiously try to contain them with stronger laws and tougher sanctions. But as we feel more of our obligations and relationships directed by government rather than ourselves, we take lessened personal responsibility for our actions and for their moral content.

As our sense of ownership of our actions erodes, our willingness to accept their consequences decays as well. In government, we devise program after program to save ourselves from our choices — and wonder all the while at the growing belief that choices count for nothing in terms of penalty or reward. We lose sight of the difference between providing safety nets for those who have fallen and mattresses for those who refuse to climb.



Of course the answer is not to close down government. We need rules that provide fair protection. We need safety nets — strong and secure ones. But we also need government with new balance and new sensitivity to the very central importance of individual responsibility. The earth-shaking events of the year just gone stand for nothing more clearly than the individual's greater power than that of government in pursuing the destiny of humankind.

The second great commandment, to love thy neighbor as thy self, is as foreign to the capacity of government as it is basic to the aspirations of human relationships. Satisfying legal requirements is an inadequate basis for self-respect. Handing out government benefits provides only the palest reflection of the virtue that shines when one loving hand voluntarily reaches out to help another.

Let us each resolve, in this Capitol and throughout Missouri, to reach out to one another so that we may move ahead together.

When Abraham Lincoln came to Cooper Union in 1860 as an aspiring presidential candidate, the audience expected him to waffle on the slavery issue. But Lincoln did not. Instead, he flatly opposed the extension of slavery, saying, "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

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**As we begin a new decade, let us resolve to
“be just and fear not” as we face the
challenges of the 21st century.**

Thank you and God bless you.